

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 12 and 14 are amended and claims 15 and 16 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claim 16 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Office Action rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 12 to obviate this rejection. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6 and 13-15 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 and 6-9 of co-pending Application No. 10/540842. Applicants respectfully submit that the attached Terminal Disclaimer obviates this rejection and accordingly request that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Sato (JP 2002-260954); claims 1, 3-5, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tokuoka (EP 0 923 094); claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Baba (JP 2002-84056); claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nakayama (JP 2001-023853); claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nagai (WO 03/036667); claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tokuoka; claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Tominaga (U.S. Patent No. 5,089,071); claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Buc (U.S. Patent No. 3,138,610); and claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato or Tokuoka in view of

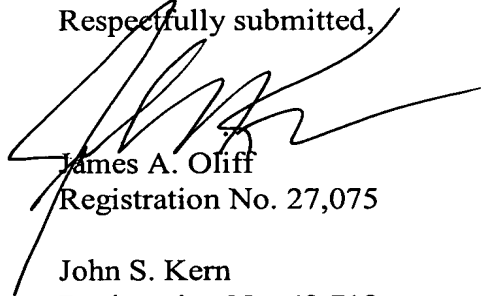
Taniguchi (JP 07-122457). By this Amendment, Applicants assert that these rejections of claims 1-16 are moot.

Specifically, claims 1, 2 and 12 amended to incorporate with the allowable subject matter of claim 16, and are therefore allowable. Claims 3-11, 13 and 14 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also allowable by virtue of their dependency as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Terminal Disclaimer

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